

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### STATEMENT ON THE 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ILLEGAL TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2011*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this week, once again, we commemorate the tragic anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus. Thirty-seven years later, Turkey continues forcibly to occupy more than one-third of Cyprus with more than 43,000 troops. This amounts to almost one Turkish soldier for every two Turkish Cypriots. It is time for Turkey to withdraw its troops from Cyprus so that the island can move forward as one nation.

As co-chair and co-founder of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, I have worked diligently with my colleagues in the Caucus out of our mutual concern for the continued division and occupation of Cyprus. We have 137 members today, making us one of the largest caucuses in Congress.

My Caucus co-chair, Rep. BILIRAKIS, and I passed a resolution in the House in the last Congress calling for the protection of religious sites and artifacts from and in Turkish-occupied areas of northern Cyprus as well as for general respect for religious freedom. And we continue to work, with the Caucus, to raise awareness of the Cyprus problem and the role the U.S. can play to support the negotiations.

Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. It has joined with us on issues important to our own security, including the fight against terrorism and other international crimes. Ending the island's tragic division will pave the way to prosperity and peace throughout the entire region.

To date, Turkey has repeatedly ignored all U.N. Resolutions pertaining to Cyprus and has continued to occupy the island in complete violation of international law. Turkey has continued to do so despite the fact that it has been a member of the U.N. Security Council since January 2009. Turkey has also refused to abide by the Judgments of the European Court of Human Rights in numerous cases, thereby continuing to violate the basic human rights of the Cypriot people. This is an outrage.

The current negotiations aim at reaching a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem based on a bizonal, bicomunal federation with political equality, as defined in the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions, with a single sovereignty, single citizenship and single international personality. The solution must reunite the island, its people, its institutions and its economy and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots and the withdrawal of Turkish occupation forces from Cyprus.

The United States and the international community must continue to provide support to this process. The people of Cyprus deserve

a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end.

As Secretary Clinton remarked last year: "The reunification of the island is in the best interests of not only the people of Cyprus, but the region, and it could set an example for the international community as well."

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JACKIE SPEIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2011*

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I was unfortunately unable to cast a vote on rollcall 621 on the evening of July 21, 2011.

I strongly support the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and its mandate to protect American consumers and I would have voted NO on passage of H.R. 1315. The CFPB will provide families a level playing field upon which to shop for the full range of financial products.

The CFPB is the most accountable regulatory body in the world. And their work has already begun. Starting today, the CFPB credit card hotline is up and running, fielding complaints from American consumers and beginning to hold companies accountable. Consumers can reach them at 855-411-CFPB or online at [consumerfinance.gov](http://consumerfinance.gov).

Families will finally have a cop on the beat looking out for their interests. But American consumers should be forewarned, if you have a complaint, report it now. Because, as we speak, Republicans in Congress are doing all they can to take away your consumer protections.

### COMMEMORATING THE 350TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST SETTLEMENT OF STATEN ISLAND

**HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2011*

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 350th Anniversary of the first settlement of Staten Island. Staten Island makes up most of the 13th District of New York and I am proud to call it home, and anyone who has ever lived on Staten Island or visited this unique place knows how wonderful it is. Deep in the heart of Staten Island and all her residents, lives an enthralling history, so rich with the American experience, as to rival the other boroughs of New York City and indeed every community across the nation.

Since before her founding, this island has been for many a place of tolerance, liberty, and justice. It was a new land that promised religious and political freedom more than a

century before the Founding Fathers immortalized those freedoms in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; the very same declaration that was first revealed to the British Troops in the American Revolution at none other than the Rose and Crown Tavern, which once stood at the corner of what is now Amboy Road and New Dorp Lane. It was here on Staten Island that His Majesty as well as the world first learned of the colonies' fearless declaration of their independence. Even before this, the first European settlers to set foot on this island in 1661 had one essential thing in common: they were all seeking freedom from violent persecution. Dutch, French, and Belgian Protestants, including Peter Billiou, Staten Island's most prominent early settler whose house still stands in Historic Richmondtown, found a haven of hope and peace on this gleaming gem amidst the Narrows. The island also served as a refuge for many other freedom fighters, most notable among them, Giuseppe Garibaldi, the Father of Italian Unification, who used his time as a resident of Rosebank to raise money and support to free the Italian people from imperial oppression.

This has come to be a defining aspect of the legacy of Staten Island. It is this borough that has come to exemplify so proudly the promise emblazoned on that beautiful Lady that lights the way of the Staten Island Ferry and in her younger years first revealed to my grandparents and many of your grandparents that they had finally reached the land where liberty lives and thrives. In the period between and after the two world wars, while much of humanity wallowed under communist and fascist regimes, countless men and women sought refuge here on Staten Island. Waves of immigrants including Italians, Irish, Greeks, Russians, Poles, Liberians, Sri Lankans and many, many more came to these shores in search of a better life for themselves and their families. "Give us your tired, give us your poor, give us your huddled masses yearning to be free" is a call that this island faithfully answered, and it has served us well—the culture of the island has been shaped by the vibrant, rich, and complementing cultures of the many diverse groups of people who proudly call this place home.

Three centuries ago in the early 1700's, a local schoolteacher quoted scripture when she remarked that Staten Island had already become a bustling community full of men and women from "All the nations under heaven." It is a mark of distinction that we continue to proudly display, however today, we consider ourselves all citizens of the greatest nation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me, and Americans from all different origins and backgrounds, in embracing one of the most central and meaningful things we all have in common, and that is the love and pride we have for our hometown of Staten Island. And of course, in wishing her a very happy 350th birthday, may she have many, many more.

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